GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:421
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Generic Medicines
Subbareddy Shri Yerram Venkata

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that generic medicines are 80-90% cheaper than the branded and patented medicines;
(b) if so, the reasons why the sale of generic medicines are not picking up in spite of so many initiatives;
(c) whether it is a fact that people have lesser faith on generic medicines as compared to branded ones and doctors are also advising them to buy branded ones; and
(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps proposed to be taken to promote generic medicines?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a): The Drug (Prices Control) Order 2013 (DPCO, 2013) does not distinguish between Generic and Branded/Patented Medicines for fixing the ceiling prices of scheduled medicines.
(b): In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

(c) & (d): The doctors prescribe medicines based on their wisdom keeping the best interest of the patients health in mind. However, the Government is taking various steps for encouraging use of generic medicines. The Medical Council of India has amended the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 on 08.10.2016 to provide a new para regarding use of generic names of drugs in prescription. The Government is operating a Scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna' (PMBJP) for providing quality generic medicines at affordable prices in the country. Various publicity media are being used to popularize the PMBJP and for creating awareness of generic medicines.
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